

## When she sings, she sings "Come home" by Loki\_Slytherin

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**Summary:**

Will Byers is struggling as his friends grow up and begin to be more interested in girls than D and D.

## **When she sings, she sings "Come home"**

"Will." Joyce whispered, reaching out to him gently.

She was in his room, sat on the bed next to him. He had turned away from her, back to the door, blanket underneath him.

"Go away." Will replied bitterly.

"Baby, I'm sorry. If you tell me what happened, maybe I can help you." Joyce replied, placing her hand on her son's shoulder.

Will froze immediately and flinched away. Joyce felt like her heart was being ripped out of her. It had been a while since Will had last flinched from her touch. She carefully withdrew her hand, and was about to get up when Will spoke again.

"It's just Mike. And Lucas. They don't want to play anymore. At least, they don't want to play D and D or anything. They just want to go to the mall or hang with El and Max without me." Will said.

"They're just being immature teenagers. I promise you Will, they'll grow out of it." Joyce said.

"Yeah. But it's like whenever I'm with them, they seem so much more immature than me. But also much more mature. I don't know how to explain it. But like, in some ways, I'm still younger than them. They're all growing up and going out on dates and none of them are into D and D. But also, it feels like I'm more mature. Like I'm not ditching everyone to run off with my girlfriend."

"Will, that would be a natural part of growing up even without what you've been through. And I know there is no one in the world who understands what it's like for you, but I looked at resources for similar kinds of trauma and healing, and that's a part of it. You probably want comfort, you want familiarity. But you've also seen more than them. You've been through more."

"The mall is too hard to go anyway." Will whispered, sounding strangely broken. "Everytime I go there, I nearly end up panicking.

There's too many people, and they all push into me, and I hate the feeling of it when they dk accidentally touch me."

"Have you tried suggesting somewhere else?" Joyce asked quietly.

"Yes. But Mike says my suggestions are childish and Lucas says there boring. They just want to go to the mall and hang out in the crowds, or they want to go the cinema, but they always only want to watch Sci- fi films and half the time the films give me flashbacks too. I'm pathetic."

"No you aren't." Joyce said firmly. She desperately wanted to reach and out and hold Will, although she didn't know how he'd react. "You aren't pathetic at all. They're just being shitty friends. They should be including you in their plans, and not dragging you anywhere that makes you uncomfortable."

Will turned around, and Joyce felt her heart clench when she saw that his eyes were filled with tears.

"What if you and I and Jonathan stayed at home this evening and did something you want to do?"

"There's a new film showing tonight." Will said. "It's called breakfast club and I thought it looked really good. But Lucas and Mike said they were too busy. But, um, if you wanted to see it maybe we could do that?"

"Of course." Joyce said. "Will, they will grow up. Right now they're selfish and immature. But soon they'll realise how stupid they're being and you'll get your friends back."